

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the Specification are believed to overcome the objections thereto. Reconsideration is requested.

Likewise, the rejections of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 112, paragraph 2 are deemed to have been overcome by the setting forth of an active, positive step. Accordingly, reconsideration of those rejections is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 4, 7, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2 is deemed to have been addressed largely in accordance with the Examiner's helpful observations. Allowance of these claims along with allowable claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 13 and 14 is now solicited.

The rejection of claims 1, 8, 9 and 15 as being anticipated by Stout under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration of that rejection is respectfully requested in light of the amendment to claim 1 and the following comments.

Claim 1 has now been amended to recite the presence of means for ensuring that, at each point of the distribution unit, a boiling point of the liquid medium is above an actual temperature of the medium in the distributor unit. The Office Action does not suggest the presence of any such means in the Stout patent which is not unsurprising.

The Stout patent is directed to a distillation device for purifying liquids, such as seawater. The patentee was not at all concerned with a reactor used in

solid-state catalysis such as, for example, motor vehicle fuel cells. Consequently, the problems of pressure fluctuations within a distribution system due to partial or regional evaporation of the educt mixture was not a specific concern in the Stout device. Indeed, the Office Action acknowledges that the liquid distillant supplied to the tubes is susceptible of being only partially evaporated. Partial evaporation is one of the very things the present invention avoids.

Accordingly, early and favorable action are earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 011210.50294US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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